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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. LEBANON: FORMATION OF NEW CABINET OFFERS NEW HOPE

EMBASSY BEIRUT BELIEVES THAT THE NEW KARAME CABINET REPRESENTS A MUCH BETTER SOLUTION TO THE POLITICAL ASPECT OF THE LEBANESE CRISIS THAN OTHER CONCEIVABLE COMBINATIONS. IT INCLUDES SEVERAL CAPABLE AND INFLUENTIAL PERSONALITIES WHO, IF THEY TAKE HOLD RAPIDLY AND DECISIVELY, HAVE A REASONABLE CHANCE OF ARRESTING A DETERIORATING SITUATION AND EVENTUALLY BUYING TIME TO TACKLE BASIC UNDERLYING PROBLEMS.

DESPITE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORMATION OF THE CABINET THE NIGHT OF JUNE 30, BEIRUT AND OTHER PARTS OF LEBANON SUFFERED THROUGH PROBABLY THE WORST NIGHT OF TERROR AND DESTRUCTION TO DATE.

--CASUALTIES SINCE THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 30 MAY RUN AS
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HIGH AS 100 DEAD AND SEVERAL HUNDRED WOUNDED.

--NORMAL ACTIVITY AND ALL ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY ARE AT A STANDSTILL, AND MANY LEBANESE ARE LEAVING BEIRUT FOR THE MOUNTAINS AND VILLAGES IN THE SOUTH.

--THE EMBASSY IS ADVISING US CITIZENS TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES AND TO RESTRICT THEIR MOVEMENTS TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 8317 AND 8335, 7/1.

2. US SENATORS MEET SUSLOV AND SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION

IN ITS FIRST DAY OF MEETINGS WITH A SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION, THE GROUP OF US SENATORS HEADED BY HUMPHREY AND SCOTT WAS ADDRESSED BY SUSLOV WHOSE PRESENCE WAS CLEARLY INTENDED TO CONVEY THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THE VISIT. IN A TYPICALLY TOUGH KEYNOTE SPEECH, SUSLOV:

--EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF US-SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS, ASSOCIATED HIMSELF PERSONALLY WITH THE DETENTE POLICY AND PUT GREAT EMPHASIS ON ARMS CONTROL (ESPECIALLY SALT);

--CHIDED THE US FOR AN ALLEGED ARMS BUILDUP AND FOR LINKING TTBT RATIFICATION TO ACHIEVEMENT OF A PNE AGREEMENT;

--SHARPLY CRITICIZED CONGRESS FOR ITS "NEGATIVE CONTRIBUTION TO TRADE RELATIONS AND THE OVERALL US-SOVIET POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP;

--SHOWED NO GIVE ON EMIGRATION, AND SAID THAT THE USSR WOULD WAIT UNTIL CONGRESS SAW THE LIGHT ON THE NEED TO ABOLISH DISCRIMINATION.

DESPITE HEATED EXCHANGES, ALL OTHER SOVIET SPEAKERS DURING THE DAY FOLLOWED SUSLOV'S LEAD AND REFUSED TO CONCEDE ANYTHING ON EMIGRATION. WHILE THE SENATORS FLOATED TALK OF COMPROMISE LEGISLATION, THE SOVIETS STUCK TO THE POSITION
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THAT NO LINKAGE BETWEEN EMIGRATION AND TRADE WAS POSSIBLE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 9119 (EXDIS), 7/1.

3. ARGENTINA: LABOR'S CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT

FOLLOWING A TWO AND ONE HALF HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PERON, THE LEADERS OF ARGENTINA'S LABOR UNIONS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT WOULD

BE RESUMED JULY 2. MRS. PERON REPORTEDLY TOLD THE LABOR LEADERS TO RETURN WITH A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. THE RANK AND FILE'S REACTION TO THE DELAY IS STILL UNCLEAR ALTHOUGH THEY ARE EXPECTED TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON THEIR LEADERS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) BUENOS AIRES 4419, 7/1.

4. MEXICO: ECHEVERRIA OPENS CAMPAIGN FOR UN SECRETARY GENERALSHIP

AMBASSADOR JOVA REPORTS THAT RABASA MET YESTERDAY WITH THE AMBASSADOR FROM LUXEMBOURG AND FORMALLY REQUESTED SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S CANDIDACY AS UN SECRETARY GENERAL.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THIS MATTER HAS BEEN RAISED OFFICIALLY AS FAR AS IS KNOWN. PRESUMABLY ECHEVERRIA'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST WILL INCLUDE ECHEVERRIA'S ASPIRATIONS TO BE SECRETARY GENERAL HIGH ON ITS AGENDA. (CONFIDENTIAL) MEXICO 5820 (LIMDIS) 7/1.

5. LAOS: OCCUPATION CONTINUES, USG PROPERTY RANSACKED

EMBASSY VIENTIANE REPORTS THAT CHARGE CHAPMAN WAS UNABLE TO SEE PHOUMI JULY 1 TO PROTEST THE OCCUPATION OF EMBASSY BUILDINGS BECAUSE THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS "TOO TIRED FROM HIS TRIP".

MEANWHILE, THE OCCUPATION OF USG COMPOUNDS CONTINUES, WITH SOME HOUSES REPORTEDLY BEING RAIDED AND RANSACKED, IN ADDITION, USAID PROTEST LEADERS AND PATHET LAO SOLDIERS HAVE THREATENED USIS AND GSO LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND URGED THEM TO QUIT.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: THE CURRENT SITUATION IS UNACCEPTABLE. THE USG HAS BEEN PATIENT AND FOREBEARING FOR TWO MONTHS. UNLESS WE REACT NOW WITH ANGER TO THIS APPARENTLY MOTIVELESS ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY, WE DO NOT SEE WHERE ELSE WE CAN DRAW THE LINE. (CONFIDENTIAL) VIENTIANE 4653, 7/1.

6. PRC ERECTING A NEW POLICY IN NIAMEY

A NIGERIAN SOURCE HAS TOLD EMBASSY NIAMEY THAT THE CHINESE EMBASSY STAFF NOW INCLUDES A TEAM OF DOCTORS PRACTICING BOTH CONVENTIONAL MEDICINE AND ACUPUNCTURE. WORD HAS NOW GOTTEN AROUND NIAMEY THAT THE ACUPUNCTURE SPECIALIST CAN RESTORE FADING VITALITY AND A NUMBER OF GON MINISTERS WHO HAVE NEED OF HIS SERVICES ARE BEATING A PATH TO HIS DOOR SEVERAL TIMES

A WEEK.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE HAVE CHECKED WITH THE FRENCH EMBASSY ON
THE THEORY THAT THE FRENCH HAVE A CERTAIN REPUTATION AND
EXPERIENCE IN MATTERS OF SEX, BUT NEITHER THEY, NOR OUR
SOVIET COLLEAGUES, NOR WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH
MEASURES TO COUNTER THIS INGENIOUS CHINESE TECHNIQUE OF
WINNING FRIENDS AND INFLUENCING PEOPLE. (CONFIDENTIAL)
NIAMEY 2558, 7/1. INGERSOLL

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